SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 28 MARCH 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

Reception reports on the 10,130 MHz experimental relay will be appreciated.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

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Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

SARL AGM AND AWARDS DINNER

All League members are once again reminded that the SARL AGM will take place at the National Amateur Radio Centre this coming Saturday 3rd April 2004.

On Friday evening, 2nd April a pre-AGM social get-together will be hosted by the Sandton club at a venue in the area. Your host will be Peter Hoyle, ZR6KZ,

and other members of the Sandton Amateur Radio Club. The venue will be the Mimos restaurant, located at Rock Cottage, Honeydew, very near to teh NARC. Please join us at any time from 19:00 to late. The name of the venue and location will be announced in next week's bulletin. If you need directions please call on the 145,700 repeater and directions will be provided.

The AGM will commence on Saturday morning at 09:00 at the NARC. Registration and submission of proxies will commence at 07:30. Please will all those carrying proxies make an effort to arrive early so that the AGM can begin on time. The AGM will take place in the Sentech hall, adjacent to the NARC. The SARL office will be open, and all the trophies will be on display. Refreshments will be available from the Sentech catering kitchen during the morning.

The first Council meeting will be held immediately after the conclusion of the AGM. The main business of this meeting is to elect the President and Vice-President, appoint the Secretary and Treasurer, and allocate responsibilities to Councillors. It is also important to agree on the timing and venue of the next Council meeting.

The AGM Dinner and Awards ceremony will take place at the same venue at 19:00 for 19:30. All members and their partners are cordially invited to join in the dinner. A super buffet dinner will be provided by the Sentech caterers, and wine and alternative non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. The all-inclusive price will be R100-00 per person. Our guest speaker will be Wojtek Skowronski of ICASA The presentation of awards will follow the guest speaker's presentation.

In order to facilitate catering we need a commitment from everyone who will be attending as early as possible, but not later than TOMORROW, MONDAY 29TH MARCH. Prepayment is required. You can prepay by direct deposit into the SARL account as follows: Bank: Standard Bank, Killarney; Branch Code: 00 72 05; Account: 001 682 059. Please ensure that your name and callsign appear in the text of your deposit. The deposit slip must be faxed to the SARL at 011 675 2793.

If you have any queries please call Vee Antal at the SARL office at 011 675 2393, between the hours of 09:00 and 13:00 weekdays, or email admin@sarl.org.za.

CLOSING DATE FOR RAE ENTRIES

Entries for the May sitting of the Radio Amateur's Examination close on Friday 16th April. By that date all examination candidates must have submitted their completed application forms and paid the examination fee of R 450 to the SARL. Entry forms are available on the SARL web site, www.sarl.org.za.

Any clubs wishing to register examination centres for the May examination must also do so by 16th April. Please note that no late registrations can be accepted.

SARL RESPONDES TO TSHWANE PLC TRIAL

This week the SARL has voiced its concern about the introduction of Power Line Communications in the programme Technologic which aired on the DSTV Business Channel 55, Summit TV. The programme was broadcast on Monday and repeated on Wednesday and Friday evening.

SARL President, Graham Harlett was interviewed at the National Amateur Radio Centre and said that the SARL is opposed to Power Line Communication because of its inherent interference to High Frequency Radio communication. The interference is not limited only to frequencies used by Radio Amateurs but also the military, Civil Emergency Agencies and broadcasting stations.

"Extensive tests carried out in Europe, the USA and Japan has clearly shown this. A transmission line that carries power at 50 Hertz will become like an antenna at higher frequencies and render the high frequency spectrum unusable."

"This works both ways: the Utility delivering broadband access to the home via power lines will cause major interference to radio amateurs, while radio amateurs in close proximity to users of PLC are likely to cause interference to them because of the antenna effect of power lines. We see this as a potential conflict situation," Graham said.

He said that the SARL believes that the current trials being carried out in the Tshwane Metro should be transparent. It should involve all parties ultimately affected by PLC, those that will benefit as well as those that we may suffer as a result.

Both Grintek, the company pioneering PLC in South Africa and the Tshwane Metro acknowledged in the programme that further tests are required and that the interference potential is of concern to them. Grintek believes that newer generation equipment will go a long way to address this concern.

Wojtek Skowronski of ICASA said that there is much work to be done before this technology opportunity can be translated into a business opportunity. Legislation would also have to changed.

An audio version of the TV programme will be broadcast in today's Amateur Radio Mirror International on the air at 10:00 SAST on 17 780, 9 750 and 7 082 kHz.

STATUS OF REGULATIONS SUBMITTED TO ICASA

It has now been confirmed that the proposed, amended regulations were published on 17th March in Government Gazette No. 25 814. Interested persons are invited to submit representations on the proposed amendments by no later than 16:00 on Tuesday 20th April.

MARION ISLAND

Ludwig Combrinck, ZS6WLC, and Pieter Stronkhorst, ZR6PSR, two staff members of the Hartbeeshoek Radio Astronomy Observatory Space Geodesy Programme, will conduct a scientific expedition to Marion Island (AF-021) dur-

ing April. They will depart on 1 April aboard the SA Agulhas and, depending on offloading of equipment and other workload, will start amateur radio operations as ZS8MI on 7 April until around 30 April. Plans are to operate SSB and 15 wpm CW. They expect to leave the island on 1 May. On board the SA Agulhas Ludwig ZS6WLC will sign ZS6WLC/MM. QSL via ZS6M, Bernardus Roode, P.O. Box 158, Kempton Park 1620. Further information (including on-line logs and direct QSLing policy) can be found at: www.hartrao.ac.za/geodesy/marionweb/main.html.

RODRIGUES ISLAND (3B9C) ON SATELLITE

David, G0MRF, the satellite operator for the 3B9C Rodrigues Island DXPedition, will be active from the island on the LEO satellites from 5 April until 12 April, looking for contacts with South African amateurs.

Activity will be centred on FO-29 and AO-7, with FO-29 being the primary satellite. FO-29 is relatively easy to work, with uplink from 145,9 to 146,0 MHz LSB and downlink 435,800 to 435,900 MHz USB. There is also a beacon on 435,795MHz. Operation will be in the middle of the passband.

This is a rare opportunity for South African stations to add a new country via the Low-Orbit satellites!

SP DX CONTEST 2004

Robert, SP5XVY, would like to invite you to participate in SP DX Contest 2004 (3rd-4th April 15:00-15:00 UTC) and inform you that the contest has new rules and new web site : www.contest.spdxc.org.pl.

In this year's contest they have a little surprise. For each station outside Poland which obtains criteria for two Polish diplomas "POLSKA" (you need only 16 QSOs) and "SPPA Powiat" the diplomas will be sent free. The rules for diplomas you can find on http://www.pzk.org.pl.

This year they add a new category: SO TB (SINGLE OPERATOR THREE BANDS). So, you can choose any three best bands to work. They also divided stations into LOW (max 100 W) and HIGH (above 100 W) POWER. They will continuously count all categories for each country.

All winners in all categories will receive diplomas and winners in categories with ten or more participants will receive special plaques.

They hope to meet you in contest. In name of the Contest Committee, Robert SP5XVY.

SIX METRES MARATHON 2004

The Six Meters Marathon 2004 is open to all amateur radio operators worldwide. The objective is to work as many DXCC entities as possible on 6 metres between 00:00 UTC on 8 May and 23:59 on 8 August 2004. The results will be continuously updated at www.50mc.tk. For further information please contact Hannu Saila OH3WW at e-mail:- marathon@saila.org.

CLUB NEWS

CENTURION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB AGM

The Centurion Amateur Radio Club wishes to remind all its members and their partners that the Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 3 April 2004 at 14:00 at the clubhouse on the corner of Duncan and Prospect Streets in Hatfield, Pretoria. There will, however, be no big dinner afterwards but there will definitely be free snacks etc available. Members are urgently requested to attend the Centurion AGM as, amongst other things, a new management must be chosen.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday evening, 1st April, the first 80 metre QSO party at 19:00 SAT; Friday evening, 2nd April, the social get together sponsored by the Sandton Club; Saturday, 3rd April the SARL AGM and dinner; Sunday, 11th April, the SARL HAMNET simulated emergency competition between 14:00 and 16:00 CAT. RAE entries close on 16 April.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

PRESIDENTS NET

Don't miss the President's Net, which will be broadcast today at 12:00 midday. Frequencies to be used will be 7 082, 10 125 and 14 282 kHz. The net will also be relayed onto various local repeaters around the country.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN, and read by …….from…… as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX